New Conductor – Symphony at WKU

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The Symphony at WKU kicks off it’s new season tomorrow night with a brand new conductor at the helm.

Amy Bingham introduces us to him in this week’s View from the Hill.

Dr. Brian St. John comes to WKU from the University of Evansville but prior to that he spent 21 years being a professional symphony conductor. He’s thrilled to take over a program with a history as rich as the Symphony at WKU.

Dr. Brian St. John \ Baker Professor of Music

Dr. Scott Harris \ Department Head, Music

Jennifer Bryant \ Exec. Dir., The Symphony at WKU

“One of my greatest joys in life is helping see a university student transition into a professional career.”

Dr. Brian St. John will get the chance to do just that here at WKU since being hired as the Baker Professor of music … a job some fellow conductor friends encouraged him to seek.

“They said you’ve got to apply for it this is a match waiting to be lit, this is a program that has been growing already and is ready to be taken to the next level.”

St. John’s chemistry with students was already on display at the Symphony’s annual free concert last weekend at Jackson’s orchard.

“We’re always looking for a conductor who not only can do the mechanics of conducting the orchestra but also can communicate with students in a very mature certainly collegiate level if not professional level of musicality.”

St. John replaces Dr. Bill Scott who stepped away from conducting in 2014 but not before making his mark by bringing strings into the public school system.

“One of my favorite things about us as a non-profit organization that Dr. Scott was passionate about, growing the public school strings program. Free so that all students in public schools have access to learning to play.”

“Many communities in the country don’t have strings in the public schools at all or have no interest in fostering that but Bowling Green has done the opposite where they have grown a tremendous string program from nothing literally just a few years ago.”

St. John is also well aware of the Symphony’s tremendous history that dates back to 1908.

“WKU has had a focus on music from the start, from the first class of professors over a hundred years ago there was an orchestral conductor in that faculty body.

The season opener “Broadway Today” is tomorrow night at 7:30 at Van Meter Auditorium. For tickets call 745-3121 or log onto the Symphony at WKU.org.

You can save up to forty percent by getting a season subscription.

With this week’s View from the Hill, I’m Amy Bingham.

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